



Frederick County Board of Elections

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MINUTES of the September 9, 2020 Meeting of The Frederick County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM, via video and teleconference by the Board President, Mrs. Mary Lou Green.

PRESENT:

Mary Lou Green, President
Shirley McDonald, Vice President
Lawrence C. Hill, Secretary
Mary Costello, Board Member
William Woodcock, Board Member
Daniel B. Loftus, Board Counsel

Stuart Harvey, Election Director
Noreen L. Schultz, Election Deputy Director
Clifton Mowell, Election IT Specialist
Marc R. Welch, Election Administrative Assistant
Russ Schantz, Election Technician
MC Keegan-Ayer, County Council President

GUESTS:

Jim Filson, League of Women Voters
Clark Stevens, Frederick County Republican Party
Andy Conley, Citizen

BOARD OF CANVASSERS:

26 ballots arrived too late for the primary election. Mrs. Costello made a motion to reject the untimely ballots. Mr. Woodcock seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES:

Mrs. McDonald made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 24, 2020 meeting. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COUNCIL LIASON:

Mr. Harvey attended the August County Council meeting and provided an election update. Mrs. Keegan-Ayer reports some voters express concerns about requesting a ballot due to a lack of internet access. She requested Mr. Harvey provide more information on the options to request a mail-in ballot.

ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey provided a written report to the Board and provided a summary. The Board discussed the report.

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OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY21 BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the FY21 budget. Postage is expected to be a large expense for this election since the Board will have to pay 50% of the return postage expense for the mail-in ballot applications and ballots. The Board discussed the budget report.

B. 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

1. VOTE BY MAIL APPLICATION MAILING

Applications were mailed out beginning on August 24, and the returned applications began arriving on August 31. So far 16,865 applications were delivered via mail. Including the OLVR applications, there are 24,360. There are approximately 10,000 vote-by-mail applications waiting to be processed. The Board discussed the application process.

2. BALLOT DROP BOXES

6 boxes will be in place by the end of September, with the remaining 2 locations (Talley Rec. Center and Oakdale High School) arriving in mid-October. The Board discussed the placement of drop boxes in the county.

3. EARLY VOTING LOCATION AND VOTE CENTERS

SBE has approved the 4 Early Voting locations for the county for the General Election, as well as the 10 additional Election Day Vote Center locations.

4. ELECTION JUDGES

Mrs. Schultz updated the Board on the status of the Election Judge hiring process.

5. BALLOT STYLES

Mr. Harvey briefed the Board on the change to precinct level results. This will require a distinct ballot style for each precinct. County staff will be modifying several ballot equipment carts to be used as ballot storage carts for the election.

6. SPECIMEN BALLOTS

The Board was given an overview of how the specimen ballot will be changed to accommodate the precinct-level reporting requirement. Rather than a voter receiving one with the exact ballot style for their precinct, they'll receive either a Congressional District 6 or Congressional District 8 version of the ballot.

7. CANVASS

Canvassing will begin October 13 in the same format as the Primary Election, using the training room and storage room. The Board will meet via Webex for review meetings.

Ballot opening will be performed by 2-person teams. Mr. Harvey requests the Board approve the swearing-in of the Board of Canvassers via Webex instead of in-person. Mr. Harvey will coordinate with the Clerk of the Court to arrange for the swearing-in.

C. MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS – EMMITSBURG

Emmitsburg has their election upcoming on September 29, 2020. It will be vote-by-mail and in-person at the Town Hall. Mr. Harvey will request that Emmitsburg staff return the precinct register ASAP so that any address or name changes can be processed before the voter registration file is closed for the General Election.

D. 2020 MAEO CONFERENCE

Mr. Harvey invited the Board to comment on the recent virtual MAEO Conference. The Board discussed the conference.

E. NEW HIRES - VACANT POSITIONS

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the newly hired temporary staff.

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NEW BUSINESS:

A. PRESS CONFERENCE/MEDIA

Mr. Harvey briefed the Board on his scheduled press conference with the County Executive. He'll be present to discuss the election. He will also be appearing on WFMD on Saturday, September 12 at 9 AM.

B. ADVERTISING

Mr. Welch provided an overview of the media advertising campaigns which will begin the week of September 14.

C. CALL CENTER/DATA CENTER

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the state Call Center. They are receiving 6000 calls per day, and are ramping up with additional staff to handle the influx. The State is setting up a data processing center to help with processing mail-in ballot applications.

D. EV/ED/CANVASS LOGISTICS

The Board discussed the logistics of their participation during the election.

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NEXT MEETING:

The Board mentioned that their next meeting is October 9, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:405 PM, Mr. Harvey requested the Board adjourn the public meeting and proceed to Executive Session. This action is in accordance with the authority granted under the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305 (b)(1) to discuss the appointment,

employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals, and Section 3-305 (b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Mr. Woodcock made a motion to proceed to executive session. Mr. Hill seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board recessed briefly to switch to the private phone conference for the executive session, and reconvened at 1:50 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Costello seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Marc R. Welch
Election Program Assistant II

Approved by:



Mary Lou Green, Board President

3/12/21

Date